

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, October 19, 2015 with Commissioners Bruce Levi, Mark Bacon, Paul Wilkinson, Mary Ann Beard Auditor and Attorney Leigh Morning in attendance.

Commissioner Bruce Levi called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the October 5th meeting were approved on a motion by Mark Bacon. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

AUDITOR

- Bi-weekly claims were approved with Mark Bacon initiating the motion and Paul Wilkinson offering a second. Motion carried.
- Paul Wilkinson moved to approve the payroll. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

SOLID WASTE

Carole Yeend, Solid Waste director asked if a solid waste educational display could be placed at the South entrance to the courthouse. The Commissioners agreed to allow the display. Yeend announced that a tire collection will be held on November 14th from 9:00a.m to noon at the Conservation Club on State Road 44. There is no charge for this service.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Chamber of Commerce director Sandy Fussner asked if lights could be placed on a tree on the courthouse lawn for the holiday season. Mark Bacon moved to allow the decorations. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

QPH HEATING

QPH Heating and Cooling submitted a proposal of \$7,840 to replace the unit that has been leaking in the Recorder's Office. Paul Wilkinson moved to replace the unit and Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING-VACATED ALLEY

Commissioner Bruce Levi opened the public hearing scheduled to address vacating an alley. Gary and Vicki Weitzel had petitioned the Commissioner to vacate an alley in Manilla. Proper notification was presented and the petitioners owned the adjoining parcels. Mark Bacon moved to sign the ordinance to vacate. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

EMA

Chuck Kemker informed the board that Rush County has been awarded an Emergency Management Performance Grant in the amount of \$21,525. Kemker explained the funds will be used to purchase a Gator which will be stored in the garage at the jail.

According to Mr. Kemker, a weather station has been installed at the courthouse and will be linked to the internet.

The promulgation of the Rush County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan was signed on a motion by Paul Wilkinson. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ECDC

Carolyn Bunzendal, representing Rush County ECDC explained that the City of Rushville intends to apply for a Community Development Block Grant to obtain a Workforce Development Program grant to benefit Rush, Henry, Fayette and Wayne counties. Paul Wilkinson moved to sign the cooperation agreement for the \$250,000 grant. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Jim Cowan reported there are 45 inmates at the jail; 35 males and 10 females with no DOC prisoners. The Sheriff's report included 398 calls to dispatch, 483 outstanding warrants, 1 new burglary, 1 sex offense, 3 thefts, and 1 fraud case.

Cowan shared that Motorola will install the new 911 consoles the last week in October.

TAX SALE CERTIFICATES

The City of Rushville has requested the assignment of two tax sale certificates from the Commissioners for properties that did not sell at the recent tax sale. The properties are deeded to Bruce Yazel and Jeremy & Tonya Hampton. Mark Bacon moved to assign the certificates to the City of Rushville. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

AREA PLAN REORGANIZATION

Councilman Gerald Mohr and Mayor Mike Pavey appeared to request the consideration of the inter-local agreement of the proposed reorganization of the APC/BZA for Rush County. The new plan calls for a Governing Board comprised of one Commissioner, one County Councilman, the Mayor, one City Councilman and a representative of either Glenwood or Carthage. The APC office will remain in the courthouse, but the employees would become city employees. The City and the County would each have their own planning and zoning boards. The County Council adopted the plan at the October 14th meeting

Concerns from the county citizens in attendance included: the plan was a conspiracy for the City to take control, no board member should be a resident of the City of Rushville, our plan should be modeled like Franklin County, the County needs a clean split from the city, and the plan was just thrown out and more time is need to make a decision.

Mayor Pavey and Gerald Mohr explained that the plan has been in the development stage for several years with input from both the City and the County. There are safeguards in the voting procedure to prevent one entity from controlling the vote. They acknowledged that the plan won't be perfect and that adjustments will be needed as it is put in place. APC Attorney Grant Reeves explained that this agreement has nothing to do with the zoning ordinance. Reeves confirmed that both city and county governments will each have their own zoning & planning. Commission Paul Wilkinson stated that he has studied the plan and would like to have seen it implemented 10 years ago.

Mark Bacon moved to schedule a meeting on Monday, October 26th at 3:00p.m. for the purpose of addressing the proposed plan. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

WESTERN RUSH COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT

John Saxon a resident and user of the Western Rush County Sewer District logged a complaint about the 22% rate increase for the district. Saxon referenced open door violations and denial of public access of records for the district and Posey and Walker Township trustees. Saxon was told to file a complaint with the related agencies because the Commissioners have no jurisdiction over another unit of government.

Dead Trees

Tom Gates inquired if the dead trees on 450S East of U.S. Highway 52 are on the county's right of way or on private property. Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton will investigate and report back to the Commissioners.

Jail Construction

Attorney Leigh Morning had discussed the alley closure for the jail construction with Mayor Pavey. The request will be presented to the City Council.

Council Request

The County Council has forwarded a list of recommendations to the Commissioners. Among them was a request to contract for two new appraisals on the Pavey building on the proposed jail construction site. Mark Bacon moved to allow the additional appraisals. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Wedding Request

Gracie Marlatt submitted a request to allow the Bill Markley family to take wedding pictures in the public areas of the courthouse on January 2nd. Permission was granted with the stipulation that Mrs. Marlatt secures the building for the event.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's report was submitted by the Auditor in the Treasurer's absence.

Mark Bacon moved to recess until Monday, October 26, 2015 at 3:00p.m. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Meeting was recessed.

/s/ Bruce Levi
Bruce Levi, Chairman

/s/ Mark Bacon
Mark Bacon

/s/ Paul Wilkinson
Paul Wilkinson

ATTEST:

/s/ Mary Ann Beard
Mary Ann Beard, Auditor